

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Kansas</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Franklin</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:	<b>Dietrich Cabin</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:			
<b>Ottawa City Park, Main and Fifth streets</b>			
CITY OR TOWN:			
<b>Ottawa</b>			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>66067</b>	<b>Franklin</b>	<b>059</b>

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:	<b>Franklin County Historical Society</b>
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	<b>Ottawa</b>
STATE:	<b>Kansas</b>
CODE	<b>66067</b>
	<b>20</b>

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	<b>Register of Deeds</b>
STREET AND NUMBER:	<b>Franklin County Courthouse</b>
CITY OR TOWN:	<b>Ottawa</b>
STATE	<b>Kansas</b>
CODE	<b>66067</b>
	<b>20</b>

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:	<b>NONE</b>
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	
STATE:	
CODE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

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# 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dietrich Cabin is a simple rectangular Frontier style structure of rough handcut walnut logs resting on a low rubble stone foundation. The cabin was relocated and restored in the Ottawa city park for the Kansas centennial celebration in 1961. It measures about 18 feet by 20 feet with an eight foot porch on the south front. Mortise and tenon joints are used at the corners. The first floor windows and doors have lintels and sills of walnut logs which are planed only in the area required for trim. All windows and doors are simple rectangular openings. There are two windows and a door on the south front, one door on the north side, and two windows on the east end, including one small window for the loft. Windows on the first floor are shuttered. There are no windows in the doors.

The wood shingle gable roof extends past the front wall to serve as a porch roof. Consequently the porch seems to be quite well protected. The gable ends of the cabin are of wood siding painted to match the front porch. A stone fireplace on the west end was rebuilt when the cabin was restored at its present site.

Several rooms added over the years while the building was used as a farmhouse were removed at the time of restoration. At the same time the wood shingle roof had to be replaced, the chimney and fireplace rebuilt, windows replaced, and chinking between the logs replaced.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 3. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1859

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     |  | <u>Western settlement</u>                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  | _____   |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dietrich Cabin, which is now situated in the Ottawa city park, was built in 1859 by Jacob Dietrich, a German immigrant who brought his family to Franklin County, Kansas, in 1857 after spending several years in Chicago. He settled three miles south and two and one-fourth miles west of the present town of Princeton, where he built a cabin on a hill overlooking the Humboldt trail. The family's first dwelling and most of their possessions were destroyed by a prairie fire in 1858. Both Jacob Dietrich and his wife Catherine worked for neighbors to raise enough money to build a new cabin. It was built on the original site in 1859.

In June, 1863, Jacob became ill and died of pneumonia. His widow decided to remain on the prairie homestead to raise their three sons. To support her family she walked six miles to Ohio City to get the laundry which she did for the county officials who lived there.

The building was used as a farmhouse for many years, and during that time several rooms were added. The cabin was given to the Franklin County Historical Society by a granddaughter of the Dietrichs. Since the restoration project in 1961, the cabin has served as a pioneer museum in Ottawa.

The pioneer log cabin was an important factor in the settlement of the state and a significant stage in the architectural development of Kansas. The Dietrich Cabin is one of the few remaining examples of an early Kansas log house and is considered worthy of nomination for that reason.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Ancient Cabin Charms Ottawa," Kansas City Times, April 27, 1961.  
 "Dietrich Cabin," Reflections of Franklin County and Chautauqua Days  
 (n. p., 1961), p. 9.  
History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 610.  
 "100-Year-Old Cabin Now Resides in Ottawa Park As a Museum," Ottawa Herald, October 3, 1964.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		38 36 38	95 16 04	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant Richard Pankratz, Planner		DATE
ORGANIZATION	Kansas State Historical Society	March 29, 1971
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Topeka	Kansas 66612	20

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☒

Name

Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date Nov. 30, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS